



# Emergency Manager's Weekly Report 1-27-12

(The articles, reports and additional information contained in this edition were collected from 1-20 to 1-27)

# "Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised."

**Denis Waitley** 





















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# **Table of Contents**

Contributions	2
Dedication	3
Executive Summary	4
U.S. News Reports	11
Emergency Management Homeland Security, Defense and National Security Campus Safety and Security	14
Campus Safety and Security Functional Needs Hazard Research and News	17 18
Public Safety Communications, Interoperability, 3-1-1 and 9-1-1 News Other	20
International News Stories	22
Costa Concordia Cruise Ship Disaster Civil Preparedness, Security and Humanitarian Affairs Hazard Research and News International Affairs	24 26
Climate Change News	29
Alternate Energy Research and Development News	30
Reports	31
Additional Information	32

#### **Contributions**

The following individuals or groups contribute to the Emergency Manager's Weekly Report.

#### **Editor**

Steve Detwiler

#### **Regular Contributors**

- International Association of Emergency Managers
- National Emergency
   Management Association
- Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
- Emergency Management Institute, Higher Education Program
- Montgomery County, PA Department of Public Safety
- Natural Hazards Center
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities
- National Organization on Disabilities, Emergency Preparedness Initiative
- EAD & Associates, LLC
- Emergency Information Infrastructure Project
- U.S. Access Board
- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Mahila Partnership
- Dave Freeman
- Gregory Banner
- Arthur Rabjohn
- Martha Braddock
- Bill Firestone
- Ed Kostiuk
- Kenny Shaw
- Robin Storm
- Dave Bujak
- Brendan McCluskey

- Dean Larson
- Chris Floyd
- CNN
- MSNBC
- Associated Press
- Reuters
- USAToday
- Time
- Drudge Report
- Central Florida News 13
- Orlando Sentinel
- LA Times
- Government Executive
- BBC
- Homeland 1
- Federal Computer Weekly
- Firehouse Magazine
- Emergency Management Magazine
- Sign on San Diego
- Homeland Security Today
- ReliefWeb
- Big Medicine
- Huffington Post
- IRIN
- ProPublica
- Homeland Security Today
- Washington Post
- NY Times
- Washington Times
- Yahoo News
- Big Medicine
- Emergency Management Daily
- PreventionWeb

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#### **Dedication to Richard Sheirer**

http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/19/richard-j-sheirer-city-emergency-chief-on-911-dies/

This edition of the Emergency Manager's Weekly Report is dedicated to Richard J. Sheirer. Mr. Sheirer passed away on January 18<sup>th</sup> from a heart attack. He served as the Commissioner of Emergency Management for New York City on 9/11.



As Editor I would like to express my condolences to his family and friends and to the City of New York. While I was not privileged to ever meet Mr. Sheirer I'm sure he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Rest in Peace!

## **Executive Summary**

This section of the EM Weekly Report will contain news articles, reports and resources that are of particular interest to emergency management professionals:

Dedication to Richard Sheirer (Page 4)

\$7.5M to repair Washington Monument (District of Columbia) <a href="http://news.yahoo.com/apnewsbreak-7-5m-repair-washington-monument-040837270.html">http://news.yahoo.com/apnewsbreak-7-5m-repair-washington-monument-040837270.html</a>

How Recovery Is Ingrained in Waffle House's Culture

http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/How-Recovery-Is-Ingrained-in-Waffle-Houses-Culture.html

Tax relief possible for losses in natural disasters

http://www.usatoday.com/money/perfi/taxes/story/2012-01-21/taxes-disaster-relief/52700894/1

Subculture of Americans prepares for civilization's collapse <a href="http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/21/us-usa-civilization-collapse-idUSTRE80K0LA20120121">http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/21/us-usa-civilization-collapse-idUSTRE80K0LA20120121</a>

Hauer confirmed as NY Homeland Security Chief (New York)

http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Hauer-confirmed-as-NY-Homeland-Security-chief-2622569.php

National EAS Test Considered a Success despite Issues

http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/National-EAS-Test-Considered-Success.html

Richard Branson on Disaster Planning http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/219661

Counterterror, disaster response centers not sharing information (California) <a href="http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/counterterror-disaster-response-centers-not-sharing-information-14587">http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/counterterror-disaster-response-centers-not-sharing-information-14587</a>

Complaints about Disaster Aid Are Little More Than Hot Air (Page )

Justice Dept. website shut down in apparent hack <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201\_162-57362376/justice-dept-website-shut-down-in-apparent-hack/?tag=cbsnewsLeadStoriesAreaMain">http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201\_162-57362376/justice-dept-website-shut-down-in-apparent-hack/?tag=cbsnewsLeadStoriesAreaMain</a>

FBI raid on Lake Mary home part of ongoing investigation (Florida) <a href="http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/os-fbi-terrorism-raid-lake-mary-20120121.0.7559718.story">http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/os-fbi-terrorism-raid-lake-mary-20120121.0.7559718.story</a>

Neo-Confederate League of the South Espouses Posse Comitatus Ideology <a href="http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2012/01/11/neo-confederate-league-of-the-south-espouses-posse-comitatus-ideology/">http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2012/01/11/neo-confederate-league-of-the-south-espouses-posse-comitatus-ideology/</a>

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Anonymous wants to crash Facebook Jan. 28

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501465\_162-57364163-501465/anonymous-wants-to-crash-facebook-jan-28/?tag=cbsnewsLeadStoriesAreaMain

In Police Training, a Dark Film on U.S. Muslims

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/24/nyregion/in-police-training-a-dark-film-on-us-muslims.html?\_r=1&hp

U.S. special forces rescue Somalia aid workers

http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/25/world/africa/somalia-aid-workers/index.html?hpt=hp\_t2

Rand Paul in Pat-Down Standoff with TSA in Nashville (Tennessee)

http://news.yahoo.com/rand-paul-pat-down-standoff-tsa-nashville-153342775--abc-news.html

Transportation Security Administration Adopts Coast Guard's Emergency Alert System <a href="http://gcn.com/articles/2012/01/18/tsa-coast-guard-emergency-alert-system.aspx">http://gcn.com/articles/2012/01/18/tsa-coast-guard-emergency-alert-system.aspx</a>

3 die in house fire near Marist College (New York)

http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/\_news/2012/01/21/10207477-3-die-in-house-fire-near-marist-college

Scientists turning to crowdsourcing to gather more information about earthquakes <a href="http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-scientists-crowdsourcing-earthquakes.html">http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-scientists-crowdsourcing-earthquakes.html</a>

Toward Twister Forecasting: Scientists Make Progress in Assessing Tornado Seasons <a href="http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/01/120119134019.htm">http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/01/120119134019.htm</a>

Could the Internet Ever Be Destroyed?

http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=could-internet-ever-be-destroyed

U.S. weather radar network gets upgrade

http://www.usatoday.com/weather/news/story/2012-01-17/national-weather-service-new-radar-system/52746738/1

Waiting for Death Valley's Big Bang (California)

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\_releases/2012-01/teia-wfd012312.php

Chemists find new material to remove radioactive gas from spent nuclear fuel <a href="http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-chemists-material-radioactive-gas-spent.html">http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-chemists-material-radioactive-gas-spent.html</a>

2011's Weather Is a Precursor of Things to Come, says NOAA Assistant Administrator <a href="http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/2011-Precursor-NOAA-Assistant-Administrator.html">http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/2011-Precursor-NOAA-Assistant-Administrator.html</a>

Meet Lucy Jones, "the Earthquake Lady" (California)

http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Meet-Lucy-Jones-the-Earthquake-Lady.html

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The Heroes of the Concordia

http://news.discovery.com/human/heroes-of-concordia-crash-121901.html

Costa Concordia disaster: Cruise firm faces US lawsuit <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-16659090">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-16659090</a>

Cruise ship threatens marine paradise off Italy

http://news.yahoo.com/cruise-ship-threatens-marine-paradise-off-italy-192645074.html

Analysis: Italy disaster shows Titanic lifeboat issues linger

http://news.yahoo.com/analysis-italy-disaster-shows-titanic-lifeboat-issues-linger-204609443.html

Cruise ship captain says he was told to perform fatal maneuver <a href="http://overheadbin.msnbc.msn.com/\_news/2012/01/22/10210202-cruise-ship-captain-says-he-was-told-to-perform-fatal-maneuver">http://overheadbin.msnbc.msn.com/\_news/2012/01/22/10210202-cruise-ship-captain-says-he-was-told-to-perform-fatal-maneuver</a>

Costa Concordia May Have Had Unregistered Passengers

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/23/world/europe/costa-concordia-may-have-had-unregistered-passengers.html?\_r=1&hp

Costa Concordia rescuers find 16th body

http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/24/world/europe/italy-cruise-main/index.html?hpt=hp t3

Cruise ship captain admits 'mistake' in deposition

http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/25/world/europe/italy-cruise-ship/index.html?hpt=hp\_bn2

Haiti creates nationwide food program

http://news.yahoo.com/haiti-creates-nationwide-food-program-232445991.html

From One Tragedy, Tools to Fight the Next (Japan)

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/22/business/inventions-offer-tools-to-endure-future-disasters.html? r=1&src=tp&smid=fb-share

Haiti dreams of tourism revival

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/americas/haiti-dreams-of-tourism-revival/2012/01/17/qIQA5ChcKQ storv.html?hpid=z11

Drought-generated hunger crisis draws binational response

http://www.homeland1.com/business-continuity/articles/1225871-Drought-generated-hunger-crisis-draws-binational-response/

Interpol faces legal threat for helping oppressive regimes hunt dissidents <a href="http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/">http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/</a> news/2012/01/23/10167327-interpol-faces-legal-threat-for-helping-oppressive-regimes-hunt-dissidents

Japan 'betrayed citizens' over radiation danger <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-19/japan-delayed-radiation-details/3782110/?site=ballarat">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-19/japan-delayed-radiation-details/3782110/?site=ballarat</a>

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Fukushima's animals abandoned and left to die (Japan)

http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/26/world/asia/fukushimas-animals-abandoned-and-left-to-die/index.html?hpt=hp\_bn2

Plan: 'Dominican Republic learns from Haiti quake'

http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=24699&a=email

La Nina cooled the globe in 2011

http://www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/story/2012-01-19/global-climate-report/52676690/1

NEOShield to assess Earth defense

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-16651642

Bioterror fears halt research on mutant bird flu

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-16662346

China reports second bird flu death in a month

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/46091755/ns/health-cold\_and\_flu/

Radioactive material stolen in Egypt

http://www.nature.com/news/radioactive-material-stolen-in-egypt-1.9867

In France, vintners erase a notorious past

 $\frac{http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/in-france-vintners-erase-a-notorious-past/2012/01/10/gIQAsOIy9P\_story.html?hpid=z4$ 

Science to help rice growers affected by Japan's tsunami

http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-science-rice-growers-affected-japan.html

Japanese Struggle to Protect Their Food Supply

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/22/world/asia/wary-japanese-take-food-safety-into-their-own-hands.html?ref=world

Study: 70% chance big quake will hit Tokyo within 4 years

http://content.usatoday.com/communities/ondeadline/post/2012/01/study-70-chance-bigquake-will-hit-tokyo-within-4-years/1?loc=interstitialskip

Magnetic soap could help in oil spill clean-ups

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-16681106

Palestinians to renew efforts for bid to U.N.

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jan/19/palestinians-to-renew-efforts-for-bid-to-un/

Nations try to oust Syria from UNESCO rights panel

http://news.vahoo.com/nations-try-oust-syria-unesco-rights-panel-165559071.html

China to again close Tibet during sensitive period

http://news.yahoo.com/china-again-close-tibet-during-sensitive-period-103147299.html

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Tensions flare over Falkland Islands <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/25/world/americas/argentina-uk-falklands/index.html?hpt=hp\_t3">http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/25/world/americas/argentina-uk-falklands/index.html?hpt=hp\_t3</a>

DID GLOBAL WARMING DESTROY MY HOMETOWN?

http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2012-01/did-global-warming-destroy-my-hometown-0

Feeding The World Gets Short Shrift In Climate Change Debate <a href="http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/01/20/145524525/feeding-the-world-gets-short-shrift-in-climate-change-debate">http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/01/20/145524525/feeding-the-world-gets-short-shrift-in-climate-change-debate</a>

Climate conversations - Shelter from the storm? http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=24675&a=email

No chance for climate deal unless firms join push: UN <a href="http://news.yahoo.com/no-chance-climate-deal-unless-firms-join-push-174341400.html">http://news.yahoo.com/no-chance-climate-deal-unless-firms-join-push-174341400.html</a>

Wind farms bought, built in central Montana <a href="http://news.yahoo.com/wind-farms-bought-built-central-montana-003853277.html">http://news.yahoo.com/wind-farms-bought-built-central-montana-003853277.html</a>

Global Risks in 2012 https://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node%2F6627

FEMA Blog, White House Honors Champions of Change in Emergency Preparedness <a href="http://blog.fema.gov/2012/01/white-house-honors-champions-of-change.html">http://blog.fema.gov/2012/01/white-house-honors-champions-of-change.html</a>

Five Maritime Disasters That Shocked the World: Photos <a href="http://news.discovery.com/history/maritime-disasters-122001.html">http://news.discovery.com/history/maritime-disasters-122001.html</a>

IAEM Annual Conference, 2012 Speaker Guidance and Resources <a href="http://www.iaem.com/SpeakerGuidance2012/index.asp">http://www.iaem.com/SpeakerGuidance2012/index.asp</a>

National Geographic Channel, Doomsday Preppers- Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUM0TOkNALg&feature=related

FEMA Blog, White House Honors Champions of Change in Emergency Preparedness <a href="http://blog.fema.gov/2012/01/white-house-honors-champions-of-change.html">http://blog.fema.gov/2012/01/white-house-honors-champions-of-change.html</a>

'Moving Forward: Life After the Great East Japan Earthquake' opens March 4 at Fowler <a href="http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/moving-forward-life-after-the-221989.aspx">http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/moving-forward-life-after-the-221989.aspx</a>

The Women of Katrina: How Gender, Race, and Class Matter in an American Disaster <a href="http://www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com/books/436/the-women-of-katrina">http://www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com/books/436/the-women-of-katrina</a>

National Disaster Recovery Framework <a href="http://www.fema.gov/pdf/recoveryframework/ndrf.pdf">http://www.fema.gov/pdf/recoveryframework/ndrf.pdf</a>

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Emergency Management Solutions January 2012 - Meeting Agendas: Four key questions for more effective meetings

http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs027/1102615593725/archive/1109067298711.html

January 2012 Natural Hazards Observer http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/o/archives/2012/jan12\_observerweb.pdf

Transcript of January 11th EMForum.org Program Now Available -- Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8)

http://www.emforum.org/vforum/lc120111.htm

Google Public Alerts http://www.google.org/publicalerts

New CERT Training Tools Webinar Transcript <a href="http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/webcasts.shtm">http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/webcasts.shtm</a>

### **U.S. News Reports**

#### **Emergency Management**

\$7.5M to repair Washington Monument (District of Columbia)

http://news.yahoo.com/apnewsbreak-7-5m-repair-washington-monument-040837270.html

Guard WMD team hoping for best, training for worst (Florida)

http://www2.tbo.com/news/breaking-news/2012/jan/19/hoping-for-the-best-training-for-the-worst-ar-349008/?referer=None&shorturl=http%3A%2F%2Ftbo.ly%2FzY9wLX

A Judge Rules Vermont Can't Shut Nuclear Plant

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/20/science/earth/vermont-cant-shut-down-nuclear-plant-judge-rules.html?hp

How Recovery Is Ingrained in Waffle House's Culture

http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/How-Recovery-Is-Ingrained-in-Waffle-Houses-Culture.html

Tax relief possible for losses in natural disasters

http://www.usatoday.com/money/perfi/taxes/story/2012-01-21/taxes-disaster-relief/52700894/1

Subculture of Americans prepares for civilization's collapse

http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/21/us-usa-civilization-collapse-idUSTRE80K0LA20120121

Contractor quarrels, alleged death threats jeopardize demolition timeline for schools (Missouri)

http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/x647568187/Contractor-quarrels-alleged-death-threats-jeopardize-demolition-timeline-for-schools

Who's responsible for notifying residents about gas? (Pennsylvania)

http://www.timesleader.com/TheDallasPost/news/Who\_rsquo\_s\_responsible\_for\_notifying\_residents\_about\_gas 01-22-2012.html

20 Inducted into Hall of Fame for International Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Mangement

http://inwem.org/welcometo/?p=292

Last officer in Katrina shootings heading to trial (Louisiana)

http://news.yahoo.com/last-officer-katrina-shootings-heading-trial-163816671.html

Around the Rotunda: State disasters in recent years caused leap in needed emergency money (Nebraska)

http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/statehouse/82db2480-a502-5c04-a988-76745a60583e.html

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Lake County EOC controversy could cost taxpayers money (Florida) <a href="http://www.cfnews13.com/article/news/2012/january/371234/Lake-County-EOC-controversy-could-cost-taxpayers-money?cid=rss">http://www.cfnews13.com/article/news/2012/january/371234/Lake-County-EOC-controversy-could-cost-taxpayers-money?cid=rss</a>

Hauer confirmed as NY Homeland Security Chief (New York) <a href="http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Hauer-confirmed-as-NY-Homeland-Security-chief-2622569.php">http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Hauer-confirmed-as-NY-Homeland-Security-chief-2622569.php</a>

For some victims of the Nashville flood, the way home has been a rocky path (Tennessee)

http://www.nashvillescene.com/nashville/for-some-victims-of-the-nashville-flood-the-way-home-has-been-a-rocky-path/Content?oid=2734827

National EAS Test Considered a Success despite Issues <a href="http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/National-EAS-Test-Considered-Success.html">http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/National-EAS-Test-Considered-Success.html</a>

Richard Branson on Disaster Planning http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/219661

Counterterror, disaster response centers not sharing information (California) <a href="http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/counterterror-disaster-response-centers-not-sharing-information-14587">http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/counterterror-disaster-response-centers-not-sharing-information-14587</a>

San Gabriel Valley cities plead for state help on windstorm costs (California) <a href="http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/01/san-gabriel-valley-cities-state-aid-wind-damage.html">http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/01/san-gabriel-valley-cities-state-aid-wind-damage.html</a>

Budgeting for a new military vision <a href="http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/26/budgeting-for-a-new-military-vision/?hpt=hp">http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/26/budgeting-for-a-new-military-vision/?hpt=hp</a> t1

CQ TODAY ONLINE NEWS Jan. 24, 2012 – 11:37 p.m.

#### Complaints about Disaster Aid Are Little More Than Hot Air

House Republicans have made a point of fretting about the rising cost of federal aid to the states in response to devastating natural catastrophes and even routine winter snowstorms. That does not mean, however, that they are about to take any serious steps to limit the president's authority to put Washington on the hook for 75 percent of many cleanup costs.

Take John L. Mica, R-Fla., for instance. As chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mica has said he expects this year to look at how the key law on disaster aid, the 1988 Stafford Act (PL 100-707), might be revised to improve the federal response to catastrophes. But currently he does not plan

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to look specifically at the broad power that the law gives presidents to declare major disasters.

Because presidents make those calls, they have a rare direct path into the federal purse, which otherwise remains under the jealous control of lawmakers. Congress took steps last year to try to budget better for the cost of catastrophes. But with a major disaster declaration, presidents make certain that federal money will flow to affected towns or counties.

There's a strong argument to be made for resting this power with presidents, who can act faster than Congress can, said Richard T. Sylves, a University of Delaware professor who has published widely on disaster aid.

The Stafford Act allows presidents a great deal of discretion to declare disasters that warrant federal aid whenever there is "damage of sufficient severity and magnitude" after catastrophes, storms and floods.

Major disasters were declared for the 2011 tornadoes that left more than 140 people dead in Missouri and flattened parts of the city of Joplin, as well as the February 2010 snowstorm in Washington that did little beyond shuttering businesses and Congress for a few days.

Some lawmakers wonder whether governors have become too reliant on such federal aid, particularly in the case of routine weather events. "Disaster relief should be for things that communities and states can't reasonably handle by themselves, and I'd like to know if we have moved away from that standard," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. He has asked the Government Accountability Office to look into the pattern of disaster declarations.

The federal government declared major disasters for 816 events in the 35 years before the Stafford Act was passed. In the 23 years since, disasters have been declared 1,234 times, according to statistics from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Winter storms were the cause of 15 major disaster declarations before the Stafford Act and of 207 since.

Governors have come to expect more help from Washington in facing even fairly routine calamities, said R. Steven Daniels, professor of public policy and administration at California State University, Bakersfield. Yet there are no signs that Congress will try to shift the burden to the states.

"Presidents and members of Congress get way too many benefits from granting disaster aid," Daniels said. "They will talk up changing it, but as soon as disaster hits their district or state, it will be everyone for themselves."

#### Homeland Security, Defense and National Security

Federal indictment claims popular Web site Megaupload.com shared pirated material <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/federal-indictment-claims-popular-web-site-shared-pirated-material/2012/01/19/gIQA4rDwBQ">http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/federal-indictment-claims-popular-web-site-shared-pirated-material/2012/01/19/gIQA4rDwBQ</a> story.html?hpid=z2

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#### **Geospatial Platform**

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#### International Network for Fire Information and Reference Exchange

Is a worldwide consortium of libraries and information centres with significant collections of fire literature. The focus of inFIRE is on resource sharing among member organizations both online and at the annual inFIRE conference, where presentations on library activities, fire research and new technologies and trends provide professional development and networking opportunities. http://www.infire.org/index.html